

Funding Transp. Dept.

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Wed 3/16/2022 1:10 PM

To: clevin.brookline@gmail.com <clevin.brookline@gmail.com>; Carla Benka <rcvben@earthlink.net>

Cc: Lisa Portscher <lportscher@brooklinema.gov>

Dear co-chairs Carla and Carol,

I am out of the country, where the time zone difference prevents me from appearing even by Zoom at today's sub-committee meeting, and thus I ask that you accept my comments below.

I address you as a town meeting member from Precinct 13, where we recently have had not just the traffic death of a pedestrian in the crosswalk where Downing Road meets Washington Street, but several other pedestrians hit by motor vehicles on Washington Street, alone, including a Driscoll School staff member.

Our neighborhood is not the only neighborhood that has seen too many injuries to pedestrians, bicyclists and other vulnerable road users, often in crosswalks. The Transportation Board, with the support of the Traffic Division, is seeking to adopt Vision Zero, the program adopted in other municipalities to prevent such injuries and fatalities with appropriate traffic calming measures. This is a necessary and important public safety policy.

However, the Transportation Division lacks the staff and resources to implement the traffic calming requests which have already been requested by citizens in different neighborhoods and recognized by town staff and the Transportation Board as needed. To address these needs the Transportation Division is seeking, to hire an additional staff person, either a traffic engineer or transportation planner. It is not enough, but is the least we must do to make our streets and public ways safe for all road users.

For this reason, the Advisory Committee should endorse the full budget request for the Transportation Division of the DPW.

Thank you,
Andrew Fischer
Town Meeting Member
Precinct 13
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